

Message Text

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61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /149 W

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R 071652Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8014

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 2783

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, DA

SUBJECT: WITHDRAWAL FROM SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

PRECIPITATES GOVERNMENT CRISIS

REF: COPENHAGEN 1296

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SUMMARY: WITHDRAWAL OF RIGHT-WING MP ERHARD JAKOBSEN

FROM RULING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP) HAS UNDERMINED GOVERNMENT'S ONE-VOTE MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT AND PRECIPITATED GOVERNMENT CRISIS. PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN AND SDP LEADERSHIP NOW FACING URGENT DECISION AS TO TIMING OF NEW ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. NAVERICK SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC MP, ERHARD JAKOBSEN, WHOSE INDEPENDENT LINE ALMOST BROUGHT DOWN GOVERNMENT IN JUNE (REFTEL), RESIGNED HIS PARTY MEMBERSHIP NOVEMBER 6 AND ANNOUNCED HIS INTENTION TO FORM A NEW PARTY. ALTHOUGH JAKOBSEN HAS DECLARED THAT HE WILL SUPPORT THE GENERAL POLICY LINE OF THE ANKER JORGENSEN GOVERNMENT - THUS TEMPORARILY PRESERVING ITS ONE-VOTE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY - HE IS ADAMANT IN NOT SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT'S HOUSING POLICY, THE MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ISSUE OF THIS SESSION. THIS LEAVES PRIMIN JORGENSEN LITTLE OPTION BUT TO CALL A NEW ELECTION.

2. HOWEVER, JAKOBSEN'S DECLARATION OF PARTIAL LOYALTY ALLOWS GOVERNMENT SOME LATITUDE AS TO TIMING. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT BY POSTPOING ITS RESIGNATION UNTIL JAKOBSEN ACTUALLY VOTES AGAINST GOVERNMENT, ELECTION COULD BE STAVED OFF UNTIL EARLY SPRING. ON OTHER HAND, ELECTION IN EARLY DECEMBER, BEFORE JAKOBSEN'S PARTY IS ORGANIZED ON NATIONAL BASIS, WOULD MINIMIZE IMPACT OF HIS DEFECTION AND, WOULD, IN ADDITION, AVOID INTERFERENCE WITH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN MARCH. PARTY LEADERSHIP IS NOW NEGOTIATING WITH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) AND WITH SOCIALIST PEOPLES PARTY (SF) ON TIMING, WITH FINAL DECISION TO BE TAKEN AT SDP EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 10.

3. JAKOBSEN'S WITHDRAWAL WAS GREETED WITH IMMENSE SATISFACTION BY NON-SOCIALIST OPPOSITION. (STOCK EXCHANGE ALSO REACTED VERY POSITIVELY.) OPPOSITION VKR PARTIES HOWEVER REALIZING THAT IMMEDIATE ELECTION WOULD RETURN A SIZEABLE PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATION FOR MOGENS GLISTRUP'S ANTI-TAX MOVEMENT, ARE REPORTEDLY WILLING TO GRANT GOVERNMENT SOME LATITUDE ON QUESTION OF TIMING.

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4. ALTHOUGH DISAGREEMENT ON HOUSING POLICY PROVIDED IMMEDIATE OCCASION FOR HIS DEFECTION, JAKOBSEN'S REAL DISCONTENT RUNS DEEPER. AS A TRUE BELIEVER IN PRAGMATIC, MODERATE AND BROADLY BASED SOCIAL DEMOCRACY, HE OPPOSED, IN PRINCIPLE, PRIMIN JORGENSEN'S MORE SECTARIAN LEADERSHIP OF THE PARTY WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON MAXIMIZING LEFTIST SUPPORT. IN DISCUSSION WITH PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

MEMBERS, JAKOBSEN STATED THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO PARTY ONLY ON CONDITION THAT JORGENSEN AND FINANCNE MINISTER GRUNBAUM, LEFT-WING FATHER OF DANISH ECONOMIC DEMOCRACY PROPOSAL, RESIGN THEIR POSITIONS.

5. AS SPOKESMAN FOR CONSERVATIVE, MIDDLE-CLASS SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC VOTER, WHOSE HOUSE REPRESENTS HIS STAKE IN SOCIETY, JAKOBSEN HAS CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL SUPPORT. A POLL BY COMMERCIAL DAILY BOERSEN LAST WEEK INDICATED A JAKOBSEN-LED PARTY WOULD OBTAIN 7 PER CENT OF TOTAL VOTE. WITH POLLS SHOWING SDP SUPPORT DOWN FROM 37 PER CENT IN 1971 ELECTIONS TO CURRENT LEVEL OF 28 - 31 PER CENT (LATTER FIGURES TAKEN PRIOR TO JAKOBSEN'S DEFECTION), QUESTION FACING PARTY LEADERSHIP IS HOW TO MINIMIZE ITS LOSSES. MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, JAKOBSEN'S DEFECTION HAS REMOVED NECESSITY FOR RIGID DISCIPLINE WITHIN SDP - REQUIRED BY NEED TO MAINTAIN ONE-VOTE MAJORITY - AND IT THREATENS TO RAISE PANDORA'S LID ON LONG SUPPRESSED INTERNAL OPPOSITION TO JORGENSEN'S LEFT-WING POLICY. NEXT FEW DAYS WILL SHOW WHETHER JAKOBSEN WILL BECOME RALLYING POINT FOR OTHER DISAFFECTED SDP PARLIAMENTARIANS OR REMAIN ISOLATED AS SOLE DEFECTOR. CROWE

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